(b) whether the spread of dengue does not fall in that category of epidemic; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Dengue is a seasonal and outbreak prone disease caused by Dengue viruses and spread by Aedes mosquito. It is an endemic disease as being reported regularly by various States over the years with an upsurge in the numbers of cases during monsoon and post-monsoon periods. The occurrence of a disease is considered as an epidemic which is clearly in excess of normal expectancy. Epidemicity of a disease is thus relative to usual frequency of the disease among the specified populations and geographical area at the same seasons of the year.

The Epidemic Diseases Act 1897, empower the State Governments to declare a disease an epidemic if the State Government is satisfied that the State or any part thereof is visited by, or treatened with, an outbreak of any dangerous epidemic disease and that the ordinary provisions of the law for the time being in force are insufficient to prevent the outbreak of such disease or the spread thereof, the State Government may take measures and prescribe regulations as may be necessary.

Research on herbal AIDS drug

†1886. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a research is going on to treat AIDS with a special herb *i.e.* Hypericum perfortum;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are chances of treating cancer like disease with herbs in our country;

(c) if so, the details of the efforts being made by Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government are considering any ambitious project to prepare medicines with new technology and for research and training in Ayurveda; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Indian Council of Medical Research has informed that the extract of the plant—"Hypericum perfortums" the purified polycyclic compound hypercin have shown promising results in the treatment of HIV. Clinical studies are also in progress in HIV positive patients. However, most of these studies are being carried out outside India.

A number of medicinal plants and drugs have been described in ancient Ayurveda/Siddha literature for the treatment of diseases having symptoms akin to cancer. Scientific organisations under Department of AYUSH and other organisations e.g. ICMR, DBT and DST through their intermural and extramural research programmes have taken up research for establishing efficacy and safety of herbal drugs in different diseases including cancer.

(d) and (e) The Department of AYUSH is already implementing Golden Triangle Project and Extra Mural Research Project for drug standardization and drug development. Government is also implementing a scheme namely Development of AYUSH Institutions, which has a component on Reorientation Training Programme for providing training in Ayurveda and other ISM & H Systems of Medicine.

Inquiry report against Cardiologist

1887. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Head of Department of Cardiology, AIIMS has submitted his report into the 'Stent' episode of the Safdarjung Hospital and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in submitting the report by HoD Cardiology, AIIMS and the time by when the same would be submitted; and

(c) the status of four inquiries pending for long against the Cardiologist of Safdarjung Hospital and the reasons for delay in completing the inquiries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY